

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A packet protection method allowing rapid restoration in case of fault occurrence without undesired reduction in efficiency on the use of network bandwidth is disclosed. In a packet protection network having a working route and a reserved route set therein, when a failure occurs, a router on the working route sends an incoming packet to be protected back to the ingress router. The ingress router forwards the packet to be protected to the reserved route so that the packet to be protected travels through the reserved route around the failure.